

James Miller
Farmington Resident
3/19/13

Ladies and Gentlemen of the committee, my name is James Miller. I am a 29 year resident of the town of Farmington. I am the vice president of a local business, a loving husband for 30 years, and a proud father of a recent graduate of the University of Connecticut and EMT first responder. I am here before you today to ensure my oppositions to raised bill H.B. 6656 are known. I have been a legal firearm owner for nearly 40 years; my wife has been a firearm owner for over 20 years, and my son has been a firearm owner since the day he turned 18. We are all extremely responsible with our firearms.

It has become increasingly clear to me that this proposal is not at all designed to increase safety to our society, but it is instead designed to deprive the economically less-fortunate of their natural right to self-defense. By making firearm ownership so economically cumbersome, the legislature is sending the message to the citizens of Connecticut that they are not interested in reducing poverty via a "war on poverty" but instead are interested in exacerbating the financial struggles by fighting a "war against the impoverished". I do not believe this is a message the legislature wishes to send to struggling individuals all across Connecticut who wish to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights.

Another question I wish to raise pertains to exemptions for police and other state employees. Many of the Anti-Second Amendment bills raised during this legislative session have granted such exemptions to police. The police, despite their required three hour minimum of range time, are statistically more likely to wrongfully shoot another person than the average armed citizen. In August of just last year, NYPD confronted a suspect who had just murdered one of his coworkers outside of one of the most popular tourist attractions in the city, the Empire State building. During the confrontation, police opened fire on the man, killing him and wounding 9 bystanders. More recently, a police officer in Manchester was wounded by another officer. News stories like these occur nearly every day in America. Should police officers be forced to pay for insurance as well due to the increased likelihood of accidentally shooting somebody? Naturally, just like private citizens, they should not be required to purchase firearm insurance. When firearms are used incorrectly, the "insurance policy" is criminal charges against the offending individual.

In closing, I truly love the state of Connecticut, but for the first time in my life I have been forced to consider relocating to another state which is not so economically burdensome, and which respects the rights recognized in the Constitution. I assure you, many law-abiding, taxpaying, and constructive citizens of our state are contemplating the same question.